

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN MAY 2006

Natural soda ash production in May was 909,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's revised production of 874,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 204,000 t, 21% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May was 1.19 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April was 454,000 t, the same as April 2005.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2006 were 410,000 t and 505 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through April 2006, compared with those of April 2005, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 34% lower, exports 4% lower, ending stocks 6% lower, and apparent consumption 2% lower.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2005:			
April	928	275	1,360
May	931	259	1,510
June	932	266	1,550
July	955	297	1,550
August	893	246	1,380
September	923	296	1,480
October	898	307	1,320
November	895	292	1,310
December	922	243	1,360
Total (January-May)	4,540	XX	7,070
Year total	11,000	XX	17,000
2006:			
January	946	181	1,190
February	801	198	1,270
March	952	249 <sup>r</sup>	1,460
April	874 <sup>r</sup>	259 <sup>r</sup>	1,290
May	909	204	1,190
Total	4,480	XX	6,400

<sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Production data include soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN APRIL 2006<sup>1, 2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	63,100	\$8,700	\$138
Canada	38,500	5,370	139
Brazil	31,800	5,320	167
Chile	29,800	4,420	148
Belgium	29,200	4,020	137
Thailand	22,800	3,640	160
Indonesia	22,000	3,270	149
Spain	17,200	2,270	132
France	15,200	2,770	182
Japan	15,200	1,840	121
Other	125,000	19,600	157
Total or average	410,000	61,200	149

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May 2006 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2006<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	14,600	1
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	9,460	1
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	342	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	80,300	5
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	124,000	8
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	115	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	136,000	9
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	96,600	6
Colombia	15,600	--	13,900	11,000	40,600	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	7,500	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	6,050	--	6,050	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	8,000	4,050	12,100	1
El Salvador	--	--	10,000	--	10,000	1
France	22	--	58	15,200	15,300	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	112	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	10	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	12,600	1
Hong Kong	--	--	--	8	8	(3)
Indonesia	40,200	--	30,100	22,000	92,300	6
Italy	--	--	--	18	18	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	80,900	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	57,100	4
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	20,000	1
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	242,000	16
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	27,300	2
New Zealand	15,000	--	--	6,020	21,100	1
Panama	2,000	--	--	2,000	4,000	(3)
Peru	--	10,700	--	13,300	24,000	2
Philippines	--	--	10,200	5,000	15,200	1
Portugal	10,500	5,000	--	--	15,500	1
Russia	600	--	--	--	600	(3)
Saudi Arabia	37,400	21,000	--	9,700	68,100	4
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	42,400	3
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	47,600	3
Sweden	--	1	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	57,900	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	71,000	5
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	29,000	2
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	62,200	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	1,540,000	100

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May 2006 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2005:		
April	511	\$186
May	745	158
June	668	183
July	602	208
August	685	227
September	270	116
October	441	172
November	768	238
December	596	243
Total (January-April)	3,430	915
Year total	8,210	2,460
2006:		
January	673	221
February	456	179
March	619	199
April	505	184
Total	2,250	783

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May 2006 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2005:						
April	928,000	511	485,000	--	10,500	454,000
May	931,000	745	387,000	--	15,400	559,000
June	932,000	668	377,000	40,000	--	516,000
July	955,000	602	368,000	--	2,790	591,000
August	893,000	685	432,000	--	50,500	513,000
September	923,000	270	328,000	49,600	--	545,000
October	898,000	441	356,000	11,300	--	530,000
November	895,000	768	408,000	--	14,800	503,000
December	922,000	596	409,000	--	49,600	563,000
Total (January-April)	3,600,000	3,430	1,610,000	--	62,900	2,060,000
Total	11,000,000	8,210	4,680,000	--	95,000	6,380,000
2006:						
January	946,000	673	445,000	--	61,800	563,000
February	801,000	456	322,000	17,200 <sup>r</sup>	--	462,000 <sup>r</sup>
March	952,000	619	367,000	50,800 <sup>r</sup>	--	535,000 <sup>r</sup>
April	874,000 <sup>r</sup>	505	410,000	10,300 <sup>r</sup>	--	454,000
May	909,000	NA	NA	--	55,100	NA
January-April	3,570,000	2,250	1,540,000	16,500	--	2,010,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.